1795

Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association

1901

Boston University
College of Liberal Arts
Library

THE GIFT OF Dean Warren

606
M38

1928

MASSACHUSETTS
CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

THE MANAGEMENT
HAVING GATHERED INTO ONE APARTMENT ALL THE

PORTRAITS OF PAST PRESIDENTS,

AND SUNDRY OTHER WORKS OF

ART, VALUE AND INTEREST,

COLLECTED AT SUNDRY TIMES, ISSUE THIS

Catalogue,

DESCRIPTIVE OF THEM, FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND
INFORMATION OF THOSE INTERESTED IN
THIS PHASE OF OUR

ASSOCIATION HISTORY.

THIS IS NOT IN ANY SENSE TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN ART GALLERY, BUT SIMPLY A COLLECTION RELATING TO OUR LABORS COVERING THE PAST CENTURY.

MECHANICS BUILDING, 111 HUNTINGTON AVE., BOSTON.
1901.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
LIBRARY

Gift of
Dean Walker
1938

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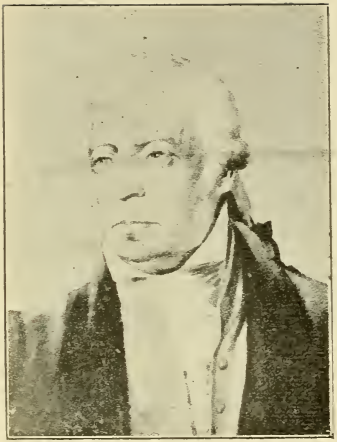
PAUL REVERE. 1

Goldsmith.

Was the first president of this Association, serving in the years 1795, 1796, 1797 and 1798. During several months early in 1795, covered by the preliminary meetings of the master mechanics of Boston, he had acted as chairman. His services to his country during the Revolutionary period were very important; his celebrated ride to Lexington and Concord being, perhaps, best remembered. This portrait, by Stuart, was painted when he was about 80 years old. He died in May, 1818, at the age of 84 years.

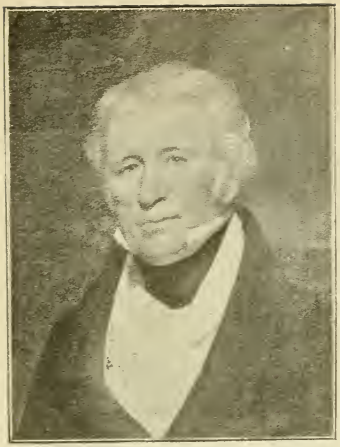


2

JONATHAN HUNNEWELL.

Bricklayer.

Was president nine years—from 1799 to 1807 inclusive—after serving four years as vice-president under Revere. He was a man of large business capacity, and exercised great influence in Boston for many years. At his death in 1842 he was nearly 83 years of age. No portrait of him being in existence, this portrait was painted from the verbal description of his personal friends.



BENJAMIN RUSSELL. 3

Printer.

WAS president fourteen years, from 1808 to 1821, inclusive. All things considered, Mr. Russell was the most important member of this Association in its earlier years. Including the presidency, he was in office thirty years, consecutively. For nearly fifty years he was the leading editor in New Eugland ;—his celebrated "Columbian Sentinel" being a power in the politics of the Country. But for his instrumentality, our Association might not have obtained a charter for many years ; if at all. His portrait was presented to the Association in 1846 ; but the artist is unknown. He died in 1845, in the 84th year of his age.

JOHN COTTON. 4

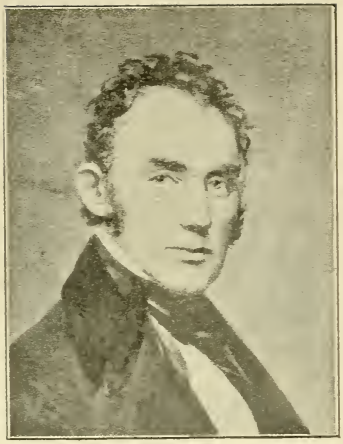
Painter.

WAS president for the years 1822, '23 and '24. He also served the Association as secretary, trustee, vice-president and treasurer. He was an able man of business, and held several public offices. He died in 1838, aged 68 years.

SAMUEL PERKINS. 5

Painter.

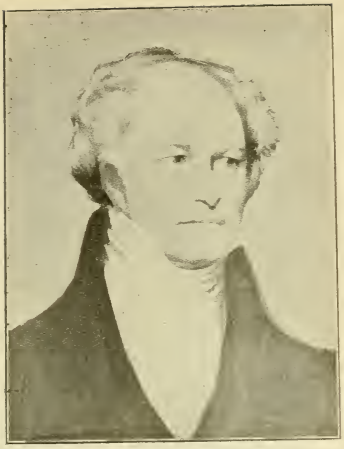
WAS president for the years 1825 and '26; having served before as vice-president and trustee. It was during his term of office that General Lafayette visited Boston, and was the guest of our Association, President Perkins making the address of welcome. He was well known as an able manufacturer. He died in 1846, aged 76 years.



CHARLES WELLS. 6

Bricklayer.

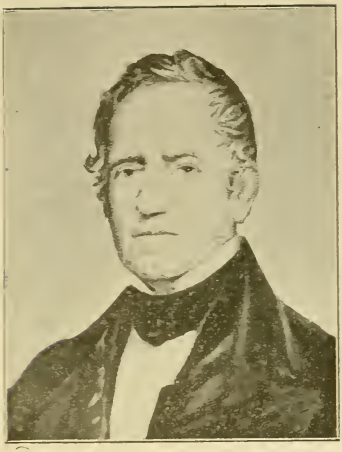
Was president in the year 1827. He had previously served as a trustee, and on the committee of relief. As president, he laid the corner stone of the monument erected by Benjamin Franklin over the graves of his parents in the Granary Burying Ground. He was one of the ablest building mechanics of his day. He was much in public life; serving as the Mayor of Boston, and for thirty years was president of the Massachusetts Mutual Fire Insurance Co. He died in 1866, aged 80 years.



SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG. 7

Printer.

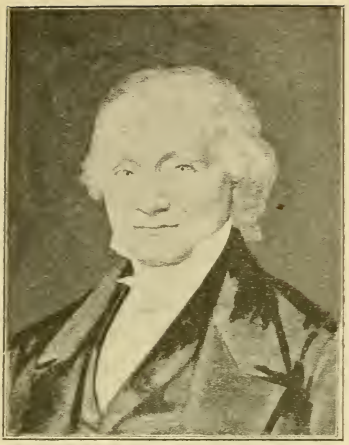
Was president for the years 1828 and '29, having previously served as a trustee. As president, he laid the corner stone of the Tremont House in 1828. He was treasurer of the fund raised to complete Bunker Hill Monument in 1834. On the 17th of June, 1843, he presented our Association with a banner now hanging in this hall; while the members, in procession, were on their way to Charlestown, to assist in the dedication of the Monument. He was in political life; being at times Mayor of Boston, a member of the General Court and Lieut.-Governor of the Commonwealth. He was a very capable man of business, and accumulated a fortune. He died in 1850, aged 66 years.



DANIEL MESSINGER. 8

Hatter.

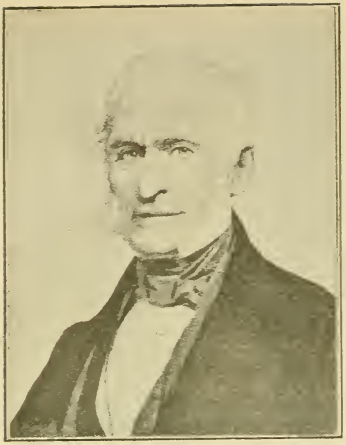
WAS president in the years 1830 and 1831, having previously served eleven years on the committee of relief. He was much in public life, filling the offices of councilman, representative and senator. He was senior Colonel of the Boston Brigade in the war of 1812, and also commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery. He was a manufacturing hatter, and acquired a handsome property. He was an esteemed and influential citizen. He died in 1846, aged 78 years.



JOSEPH T. BUCKINGHAM. 9

Printer.

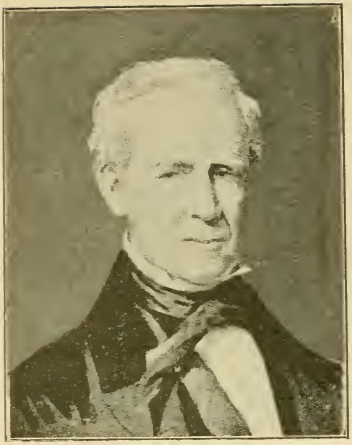
WAS president in the years 1832, '33 and '34. He had previously served as secretary, trustee and vice-president. Mr. Buckingham was a journalist of remarkable ability. The present "Boston Courier" was founded by him, being the second daily paper in Boston. He was in the senate and house of representatives several years, and president of the Bunker Hill Monument Association ten years. He was the author of the "Annals" of this Association, being a comprehensive history of this organization from its inception in 1795, down to 1869. But for this "labor of love" on his part, much that is very valuable in our history might have been entirely lost. He died in 1861, aged 82 years.



STEPHEN FAIRBANKS. 10

Saddler.

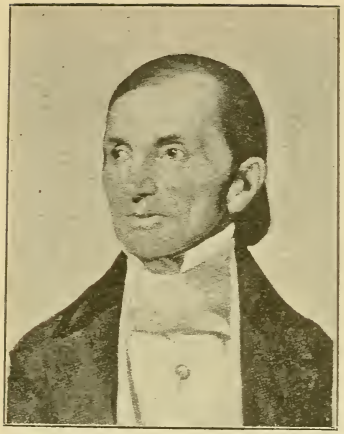
Was president for the years 1835, '36, and '37 ; having previously served as trustee. It was during his presidency that our First Exhibition was held ; which, for its time, proved a marked success. He was most active in promoting measures for the prosperity of the Association. For years he was engaged in the hardware trade ; and for eighteen years was the treasurer of the Western Railroad. He died in 1866, aged 82 years.



GEORGE DARRACOTT. 11

Tin Plate Worker.

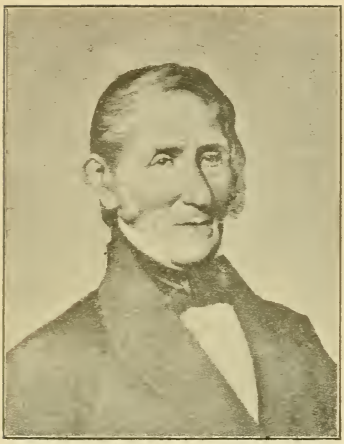
Was president during the years 1838 and '39; having previously been a trustee and had served on the committee of relief. For years he was the superintendent of the Boston Gas Light Co. He also occupied many public positions of trust and honor, state and municipal; and was a director of the Bunker Hill Monument Association. He died in the year 1865, at the age of 82 years.



JOSEPH LEWIS. 12

Baker.

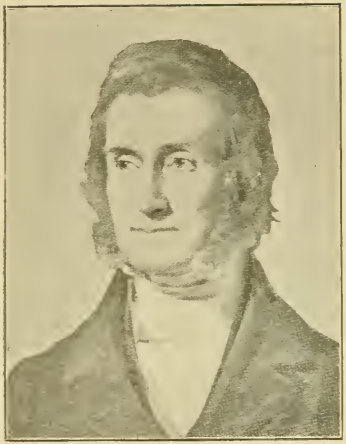
Was president in the years 1840, '41, and '42; having previously served as secretary, trustee and vice president. It was during his presidency that the Association took part in the public observances following the death of President William H. Harrison. Our Third Exhibition was also held under his administration, which was successful. He was captain of a company during the war of 1812. He died in 1858, at the age of 75 years.



JAMES CLARK. 13

Pump and Block Maker.

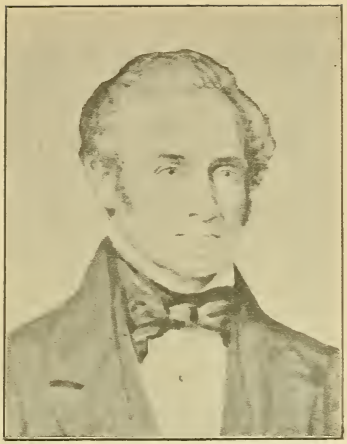
Was president in the years 1843 and 1844. It was during his administration that our Association took part in the celebration of the completion of Bunker Hill Monument. Mr. Clark was a man of much energy; serving in both branches of the city and state governments; and in the fire department. The purchase of land on which the Revere House was erected, took place while he was president. He died in 1860, aged 71 years.



GEORGE G. SMITH. 14

Engraver.

Was president in the years 1845, '46 and '47. The Revere House was built under his administration. He was much interested in public school affairs; was prominent in the military; and in masonry. Our Fifth Exhibition was held while he was president. He died in 1878, aged 83 years.



HENRY N. HOOPER. 15

Brass Founder.

Was president in 1848, 49 'and '50; having previously served as trustee and vice president. It was during his administration that water was first introduced into Boston from Lake Cochituate. The Association also paraded on the occasion of the funeral of President Zachary Taylor. President Hooper presented the Association a bronze bust of Nathaniel Bowditch, by Ball Hughes; still in our possession. The firm of Henry N. Hooper & Co. achieved an enviable reputation as manufacturers of church bells. He died in 1865 at the age of 66 years.

16

JONAS CHICKERING.

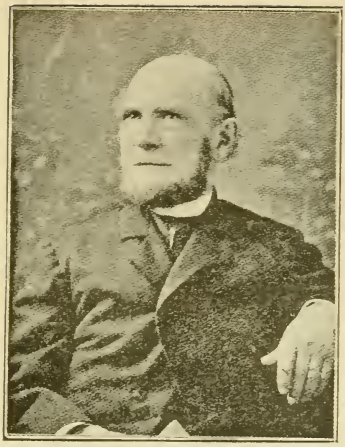
Piano forte maker.

Was president in 1851, '52 and '53. He had already served both as trustee and vice president. Mr. Chickering's reputation rests, mainly, upon the character of the instruments manufactured during a long and active career;—"Chickering Pianos" having been favorites for two generations. Mr. Chickering died while in office; being the first president of our Association to die under these circumstances. He was 56 years of age.

FREDERIC W. LINCOLN, JR. 17

Mathemetical Instrument Maker.

Was president during the years 1854, '55 and '56. In 1845 he delivered the semi-centennial address, and had also served as trustee and vice president. Mr. Lincoln was one of the most constant and efficient of the officials of the Association. At our centennial in 1895, he also delivered the address. He was treasurer from 1880 to 1887. He was a relative of Paul Revere, and when an infant had been in his family. He was Mayor of Boston during the civil war; and held numerous other offices. He was, in a sense, the connecting link between the "old and new", of our Association:– a link which was broken by his death in 1898. He was 81 years old.



JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN. 18

Mathametical Instrument Maker.

Was president in the years 1857, '58 and '59; having previously served as trustee and vice president. Mr. Wightman was an exceptionally active man; whether in business or in public life; holding as he did many public offices; being Mayor of Boston for several years. Commencing his career when quite young he filled out the measure of a long life full of the activities of the age in which he lived. He died in 1885, at the age of 73 years.

PELHAM BONNEY.

Housewright.

19

Was president in 1860 and 1861. He was well known as one of our accomplished building mechanics; having charge of the real estate interest of some of our best known citizens. He was a valuable member of each branch of the city government for some years. He died in the second year of his presidency, at the age of 59 years.

FREDERICK H. STIMPSON. 20

Stove Manufacturer.

WAS president in 1862 and 1863. He had previously served the Association as trustee, secretary and vice-president. He was one of the pioneer manufacturers of stoves, ranges and furnaces. He served in the city government and on the school committee. He was regarded as a man of high principles, reliable and helpful. The good such men do lives after them. He died in 1873, at the age of 68 years.

JOSEPH T. BAILEY. 21

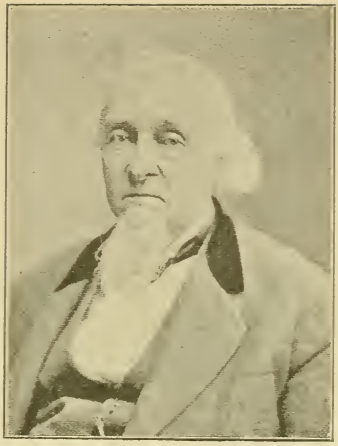
Carpenter.

WAS president in the years 1864, '65 and '66. Our Tenth Exhibition was held under his presidency, and was most successful, financially, to that time. His administration of the affairs of our Association was eminently satisfactory. For the last 25 years of his life he was the president of the Boylston National Bank. He died in 1894, at the age of 76 years.

JONAS FITCH. 22

Carpenter.

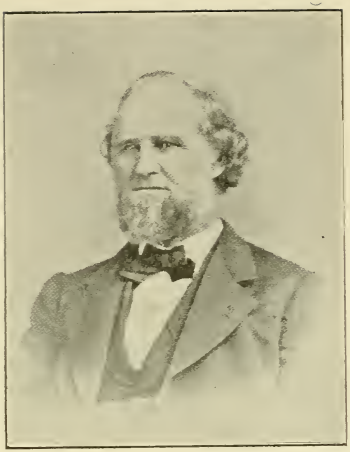
Was president in the years 1867, '68 and '69, having previously served as trustee and vice-president. Our Eleventh Exhibition and Twenty-First Triennal Festival were held under him, and proved very successful. Mr. Fitch was a sagacious man of business, of immense energy and force, and became wealthy. He died in 1882, aged 71 years.



ALBERT J. WRIGHT.

Printer.

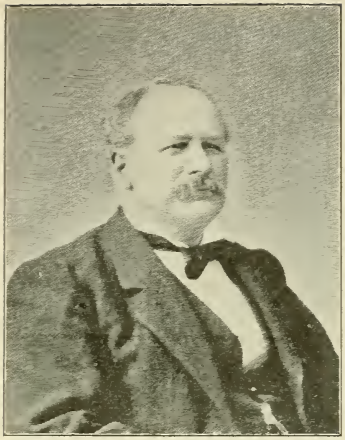
WAS president in the years 1870, '71 and '72, after having already served the Association eight years in an official capacity. He was widely known as one of the active and influential politicians, and his firm—Wright & Potter—were State Printers many years. He was a man of genial manners, and universally popular. He died in 1877, aged 59 years.



NATHANIEL ADAMS. 24

Mason.

Was president in the years 1873, '74 and '75. As trustee and vice-president he had previously served six years. The Exhibition held by him was very successful. Our members attended the centennial celebration of the battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June, and the Twenty-third Triennial Festival was held under his administration. Mr. Adams was one of our notable builders, a man of great resources, and very popular. He died in 1879, aged 67 years.



JOSEPH F. PAUL. 25

Carpenter.

Was president in the years 1876, '77 and '78, having previously served as trustee and vice-president. The "World's Fair" in Philadelphia was held in 1876, and Mr. Paul, with a committee of members, visited it with the view of obtaining valuable ideas to utilize in our Exhibition, which was held in a temporary building erected in Park Square. The Twenty-fourth Triennial Festival followed the Exhibition, both of which were successful. Mr. Paul was a business man of marked ability and activity for many years. He died in 1889, aged 65 years.

CHARLES W. SLACK. 26

Printer.

WAS president in the years 1879, '80 and '81. It was during Mr. Slack's administration that the land was bought and our building erected. Considering the obstacles growing out of difficulties connected with the erection of our building for the last Exhibition and others, which he successfully overcame, his administration was very beneficial to our Association. He was a man of exceptional ability, and in after years held an important Government office. He was a very eloquent speaker, and exercised great iufluence over our members. He died in 1885, aged 60 years.

NATHANIEL J. BRADLEE. 27

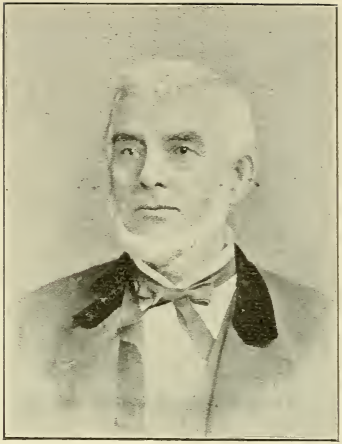
Architect.

Was president in 1881 and 1882. He had previously served three years as trustee, and three years as vice-president. During the period covered by the erection of our building, Mr. Bradlee was of essential service to the Association. As the custodian and manager of trust funds, Mr. Bradlee had the distinction of being the largest and most successful operator handling such property in Boston. He died in 1888, at the age of 59 years.

CHARLES R. McLEAN. 28

Millwright.

WAS president in 1884. He was elected president at the annual meeting in January, but died on the 13th of April. From his great natural energy and business capacity, our members had reason to anticipate fine results from his administration. This was the third president to die while in office. This portrait was painted from a photograph, some years after his death, which occurred when he was 60 years old. He had served six years as trustee and vice-president.

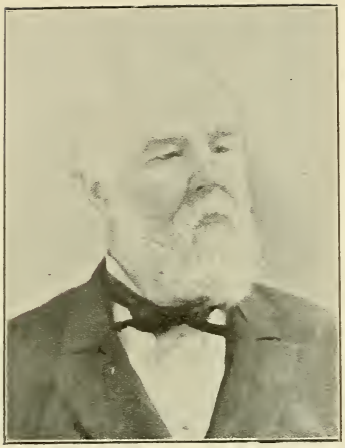


29

THOMAS J. WHIDDEN.

Mason.

Was president from April, 1884, until the following January, when he declined a re-election. The Fifteenth Exhibition held that year was not successful, financially, from unavoidable causes. Mr. Whidden was a man of large ability, commanding the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. He died in the year 1897, at the age of nearly 80 years.



NEWTON TALBOT.

Printer.

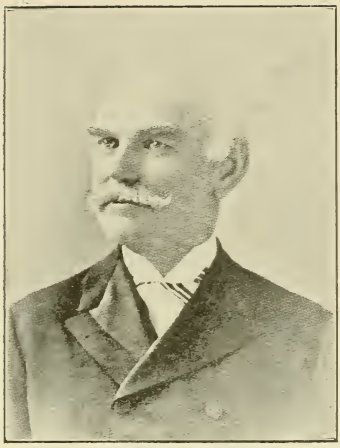
30

Was president in the years 1885, '86 and '87. At the conclusion of his term as president he was elected treasurer, and has been re-elected yearly since. The Sixteenth Exhibition was held under his management, with excellent financial results. Mr. Talbot has held various offices of trust and responsibility for many years, always to general satisfaction. His efforts to extricate the Association from financial difficulty years ago were successful, and laid the Association under lasting obligations to him.

JAMES G. HAYNES.

Tin Plate Worker.

WAS president for the years 1888, '89 and '90, having previously served nine years in other offices. He was also the superintendent of two Exhibitions, which he managed with great success. Thoroughly in sympathy with the aims and objects of our Association, he spared neither time nor effort to promote its interests. He died near the close of the year 1894, at the age of 64 years.



OLIVER M. WENTWORTH.

Marble Worker.

Was president in the years 1891 and 1892. He served as trustee and vice-president previously. The Exhibition held under his management was a pronounced success. Mr. Wentworth is a man of large business ability, commanding the respect of all good citizens. He still retains and manifests a strong interest in the affairs of the Association and seeks its permanent advancement and prosperity.

MEMORANDUM.

By a decisive majority the Association have voted to ask our past presidents to sit for their portraits, at the expiration of their several terms of office. It is the manifest wish of the members to perpetuate this custom of a century, thus preserving on canvas the portraits of these able and faithful men who have without any monetary consideration, contributed of their time and abilities to carry on and increase the beneficent work projected by "THE FATHERS," more than a century ago. That their work should have been efficient and productive of great good to the community in which they lived and labored, might be inferred from a study of their characters, as indicated in their portraits.

[NOTE.—It was hoped that we should have been possessed at this time of the portraits of ex-presidents E. Noyes Whitcomb, carpenter, and Horace T. Rockwell, printer. At the beginning of the coming year we shall be entitled to that of our present president, Horace H. Watson, whose term will then have expired.]

OSMYN BREWSTER. 36

* *Printer.*

From 1842 to 1880, inclusive, Mr. Brewster served this Association as its treasurer, without any salary, but with a measure of fidelity and ability which in other fields have commanded substantial compensation. The assets of the Association during that period increased from $33,000.00 to more than $275,000.00. It is questionable whether an instance can be found of longer voluntary service, coupled with larger substantial results? All credit and honor are due from our members to Osmyn Brewster.

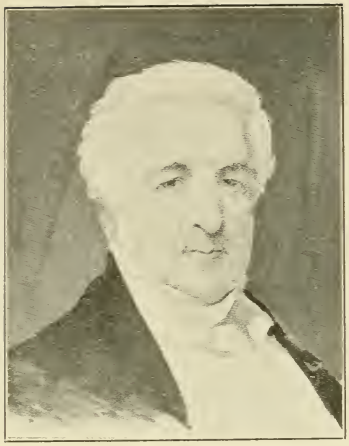
And remembering that the officials of the Association include a president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, thirteen trustees and nine

committee of relief—26 in all, and that, as a rule, they have been changed once in about every three years; and further remembering the fact of the large sums of money which have been handled by these officials covering this long period of time, what higher compliment can be given than to say that hitherto no defalcation nor loss has been known. One and all, our members seem to have been imbued with the spirit of our motto: "Be Just and Fear Not."

JOSEPH L. BATES. 37

Umbrella Maker.

Was a native of Boston, and for more than thirty years, from 1854 to 1884, was the secretary of this Association. His best efforts were given during this long period to the interests of the Association, which included the time covered by eight of our Exhibitions, and many other important operations. Our members were much attached to him; and his kindness and urbanity are often spoken of. The income from the position being small, he was also engaged in trade, to a limited extent. He died in 1886, aged 80 years.



WILLIAM WOOD. 38

Mr. Wood was not a member of this Association, but a Boston merchant. In the year 1818, he gave the Association the sum of thirty-five dollars, to be awarded by them as prizes for the best casks made by cooper's apprentices; and which were the very first prizes ever given by this Association. Later he gave larger sums for similar purposes. He also proposed to make a donation of 500 books towards a library for mechanics' apprentices, if our Association would start one; which was done. His contribution, however, was much larger, and was the nucleus of the library of the Mechanic Apprentices Library Association, the very first library ever established in the world for the exclusive use of mechanics' apprentices.

Mr. Wood afterward removed to New York State, where he was quite prominent, and where he died.

THIS is a steel plate engraving of this distinguished French General, who,—then a very young man,—when our countrymen were in armed conflict with the forces of Great Britain in 1777, came to this country with supplies for our army. During the revolutionary struggle Gen. Lafayette was heroically engaged in upholding the arm of Washington, contributing materially to the success of our arms and the independence of the colonies.

On the occasion of his fourth visit to this country in 1824, he was invited by our Association to attend a reception and dinner, to be given in his honor, by our Association. As previous engagements compelled him to leave Boston at that time, he promised to return later, which he did.

The following is a copy of his letter in response to our invitation :—

Boston, August 28, 1824.

Sir:—My respect for the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association and my gratitude for their kind invitation, cannot but greatly increase my regret to be imperiously limited by time in this first visit to Boston. I just came to gratify my ardent desire to find myself again in this city, but in a few days must proceed to the South, and am pre-engaged for every moment previous to my departure. But on my return to Boston, before I leave this shore of liberty, I will claim the welcome proposal, which I now lament not to have in my power to accept: and I beg in the meanwhile your respectable society to receive the expression of my veneration and attachment.

(Signed) LAFAYETTE.

To the Secretary of the Mechanic Association.

Agreeably to the suggestion contained in his letter, Lafayette returned to Boston the following year, and was present at the laying of the corner stone of Bunker Hill Monument, on the 17th of June. In the course of his eloquent oration, the orator, Daniel Webster, turning to Lafayette, said:—

Sir,—Your interesting relation to this country, the peculiar circumstances which surround you, and surround us, call on me to express the happiness which we derive from your presence and aid in this solemn commemoration.

He also attended the dinner given by our Association, a detailed account of which was published in the *New England Galaxy*, edited by Joseph T. Buckingham, a copy of which may be found in Buckingham's Annals, page 201.

In response to the toast in his honor, he gave:—

The Massachusetts Mechanic Society. May the noble example of dignified patriotism and virtuous industry given to the world by the mechanics of this city and state, be forever more and more illustrated by all the blessings of public and domestic prosperity and happiness.

The letter referred to is enclosed in a frame hanging below his portrait.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

The statue of Franklin, now standing in front of City Hall, first suggested by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, in a lecture before this Association, in 1853—by the instrumentality of our Association, principally, it was erected—was dedicated on the 17th day of September, 1856, Frederic W. Lincoln, Jr., then president of our Association, delivering the address; and it was received by the Hon. Alexander H. Rice, Mayor of Boston, an Honorary Member of our Association.

The committee on design had arranged that the four panels of the base should illustrate four phases in the life of this remarkable man, the most eminent of Boston's mechanics. And our Association was accorded the honor of filling the front panel with a representation of

FRANKLIN, the PRINTER.

An order was sent to Richard S. Greenough, a famous Boston sculptor, then residing in Rome, to design the panel, and the *bas relief* here shown was the result. It represents Franklin as a workman at a press, in a printing office, under the direction of his older brother, James, of whom Benjamim learned his trade. But our Government preferred that Franklin be shown as the master mind in the office, and the panel now in the base of the statue in front of City Hall, was modelled accordingly. This model is preserved, however, as a memento of this eminent citizen, mechanic, philosopher, scientist and statesman; as one who has shed renown upon

the city, state and nation of his birth, and who is recognized in the pages of history as one of the foremost men of any land or time—

"One of the few,—the immortal names, that were not born to die."

The press shown in the bas relief is now the property of our Association, and the photographic representation of it shown was taken in this room some years ago, when it was fitted up in order to take an impression.

The Statuette, on a bracket, is a fac simile of the statue in the City Hall yard, and was given to our Association by the founders,—the Messrs Ames of Chicopee.

40 In a frame in another part of the room is a large bronze medallion head of Franklin, also the gift of the founders.

A In the frame behind the statuette is an account of the proceedings at the time the statue was inaugurated, written by an expert penman, giving the details of the ceremonies on that occasion, with the names of the principal actors, and is kept as a memento of an occurrence of which our Association, our city and state may well feel proud.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

41

Opposite Lafayette is an engraving of Daniel Webster, an Honorary Member of our Association, as was Lafayette. With the passing of the years partizan feeling fades away, and all citizens at this time accord to Webster the palm of superiority in mental power of any son of our beloved New England.

43 42

GRANT. SUMNER.

Above Lafayette, the soldier; and Webster, the statesman; stand Grant, the soldier; and Sumner, the statesman; the mere mention of whose names is all that need be said at this time.

STATUARY.

44

At various times we have had gifts of busts of certain eminent men, as follows:—A bronze bust of Nathaniel Bowditch, the famous author of works on navigation, and which have for many years been carried by ship masters of all nations to every part of the navigable globe. It was designed by Ball Hughes, in his day one of the most celebrated of American sculptors.

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One in plaster of George Peabody, the American London Banker. Both of these men were Honorary Members of our Association.

One in plaster of Alexander Hamilton, the eminent American Financier. One of John Locke, a famous English philosopher of former years; and one of Sir Isaac Newton, whose name has long been a household word. Also one of our own Jonas Chickering, a name which will always suggest melody.

OUTGROWN CUSTOMS.

For many years after the organization of our Association, it was the custom for our members to parade on public occasions, generally in response to a call from the city authorities, when they would turn out several hundred able-bodied men, forming a substantial nucleus to a procession. For that purpose a Banner, and other insignia were necessary; and four years after our first organization—in 1799—we were presented a Banner of green silk, by Jonathan Hunnewell, then president. Its principal design was an ornamental circle, enclosing an American Eagle, with outstretched wings—symbol of Freedom,—holding a ship's wheel in one claw—symbol of Commerce,—and a cannon ball in the other—symbol of Defence,—with shipping and buildings in the distance, and a beehive—symbol of Industry—in the foreground. It also bears the motto of the Association: "Be Just and Fear Not." This banner was carried through the streets of Boston many times during the first half-century of our existence.

46

But on the 17th of June, 1843, when our members, by invitation, paraded to march to Charlestown, to assist in the dedication of Bunker Hill Monument, as they marched up Beacon street ex-President Samuel T. Armstrong presented them a silk banner of elegant design, and which still hangs in this office. The central figure represents a Mother and Children, symbolical of Care and Protection. Customs change, and our

46

Association may never again parade our streets, as formerly; but these old tattered banners, as long as they shall retain strength to preserve their form, will hang in our hall to speak, as they do, of the days when our citizens were familiar with this earlier phase in the life of our Association.

In another place hang two small flags of peculiar design. They were both carried in the procession which paraded to meet and greet Gen. George Washington as he entered this city over "the Neck," in 1789. That on the right was carried by the "boatbuilders," the other by the "tobacconists." The bearer of the first was Samuel Yendell, a "north end boy" of twenty years, who a few years later was ship carpenter of the ship Columbia, of Boston, when she entered a river for the first time, since known from that ship as the Columbia River. He was afterwards a member of this Association 44 years.

CONSTITUTION.

On the wall with the Lafayette and Franklin mementoes, hang two frames of some interest to our older members; and perhaps to others. In 1846 an expert penman wrote on a broad sheet our entire Constitution; together with the names of the members, who at that time numbered about eight hundred. Of all those who then bore those names only two are living today; namely, William G. Clark and Charles Davenport. It would require less space to inscribe the names of our present smaller membership; and judging from the tendencies of the times, in much less than 55 years every member whose name is now borne upon our rolls, will have joined "the great majority." The yearly mortality of an organization like ours stands as a suggestive mentor upon our daily conduct.

The other frame holds a sheet containing the names and fac-simile signatures of the officers engaged in the revolutionary war from Massachusetts; about 300 in number. This Society was organized June 9th, 1783. Among the signatures is that of Maj. Gen. H. Knox; while in a small frame at its side is a receipted bill for sundry articles of stationery, made out and receipted by the then salesman, Henry Knox; and dated many years before. In this case the "sword was not beaten into a plowshare"; but the pen was exchanged for the sword.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PAST GOVERNMENTS.

In former years it was a custom for our Governments to be photographed in groups. Three such groups hang together on the wall.

First, the Government of 1855; Frederic W. Lincoln, Jr., President; 16 figures. Second the Goverment of 1865; Joseph T. Bailey, President; 15 figures. And third, the Government of 1869; Jonas Fitch, President; 15 figures. 51 52 53

Of these forty-six men three are now living; illustrations of the fact that right living in accord with nature's laws, tends to continued mental and physical health; and consequently long life.

The faces in these three groups are largely of men well remembered by some of our present members: and will be recognized as former friends and associates. To look over these groups of those once engaged in the work of our Association must recall pleasant memories of by-gone days.

The goverment of 1847 is also shown. This is one of the earliest type known as Daguerreotypes. The plate is large; and this picture, although exposed to the light for more than half a century, still preserves much of its old time clearness and beauty. It is among the finest specimens of this early mode of "sun-painting," and is well worth an examination by those curious in such matters. 50

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

55

This is a group picture of twenty-five officials of the Association, serving with President Wentworth, during the years 1891, '2 and '3. Their names, beginning at the top and reading to the right, are as follows: John C. Clapp, William Robinson, Samuel F. Hicks, William B. Smith, Alfred J. Neal, Thomas J. Lyons, Ezekiel R. Jones, Horace H. Watson, E. P. Longley, Isaac N. Tucker, John S. Paine, George L. Damon, President Oliver M. Wentworth, Edward C. Jones, Henry D. Dupee, George W. Stevens, Secretary Bicknell, Vice-President E. Noyes Whitcomb, Treasurer Talbot, Augustus Lothrop, Richard F. Keough, William P. Stone, Alfred A. Hunting, Erastus B. Badger and William N. Young.

This picture was designed, executed, framed and presented to the Association by Elmer Chickering.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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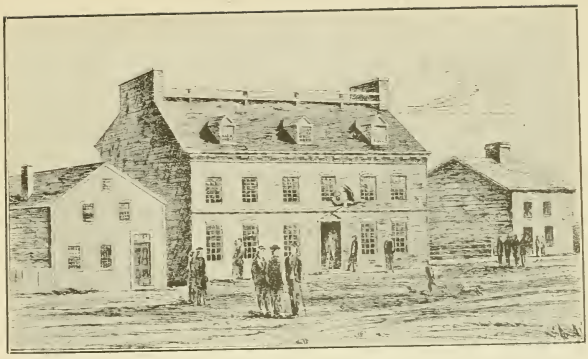
This is a group picture of a portion of the officers of the Association under the administration of President Rockwell, in 1897. Their names, beginning at the top and reading to the right, are as follows: Henry A. Turner, Edward F. Porter, John F. Buerkel, James H. Roberts, Henry C. Whitcomb, President Horace T. Rockwell, Henry Hall, Treasurer Talbot, Secretary Bicknell, Charles H. Morse, Vice-President Horace H. Watson, Samuel N. Davenport, Henry D. Dupee, John Evans, Ottomar Wallburg and William L. Miller.

The Association is indebted to the liberality of Elmer Chickering for this group picture.



THE "GREEN DRAGON."

THE Green Dragon Tavern was a noted public house for a long time during the closing years of the eighteenth century and the opening years of the nineteenth. It was a plain two story building, situated on the westerly side of Union Street, just north of Hanover Street. It was famous in its day as the headquarters of the Boston mechanics, and the meeting place of the "Liberty Boys" and other daring spirits who rebelled against the oppressive measures of Great Britain. The very first meeting of the "master mechanics of the town of Boston," which led up to the formation of this Association, was held there early in January, 1795; and for this reason it has been called the "cradle of the Association."

The meetings held in that noted structure contributed very materially towards the independence and prosperity of our country; and its name and fame may well be remembered by our countrymen, now and hereafter.

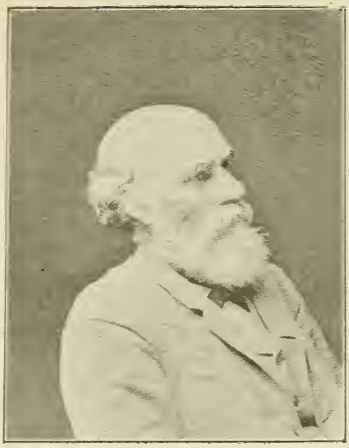
On the 27th of March, 1860, the "new Hall," of our Association, at the corner of Bedford and Chauncy Streets, shown in the illustration, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. From this time until the completion of our present building, it was the official home of the Association. It was largely rented for business purposes; producing a good revenue. In 1869 the adjoining lot on Chauncy Street was purchased, and the building extended to cover the same. On the purchase of our present lot, in 1880, among other means of obtaining funds to erect our present building, it was sold. Its erection had been planned and carried out after several years consideration of the subject matter; as a means of providing a home for the Association; and also as a means of increasing our property; both of which objects were successfully accomplished.

The financial wisdom manifested from time to time by the managers of our affairs has never been questioned; and the visible results of the labors of so many able and faithful men, during this long period, are now the possessions of its present membership. If the present and future managers are as able and faithful as those who have gone before, the financial and mechanical future of this organization is assured.

REVERE HOUSE.

For many years after the organization of our Association, it had been the strongly expressed desire of our members to own a Hall, where our meetings could be held, and which would be, in fact, the home of the Association. Various locations had been considered, but without result, until the year 1845, when a lot of land in Bowdoin Square, known as the "Boott Estate," was purchased. But after its purchase, for valid reasons, the plans were changed, and in conjunction with the owners of the adjoining lot, a hotel was erected, and named, in honor of our first president, the "Revere House." For many years thereafter our Association owned a majority of the stock of the corporation, but on the erection of our present building a portion of it was sold. The Association, however, still owns certain shares, from which it derives an income, and our president is *ex-officio* in the management.

It seems especially appropriate that the portrait of this eminent inventor should find a place in a collection like ours. The fact that the mechanism of the marine structures of to-day bear little resemblance to that of the little boat "Clermont," whose wheels propelled by steam first disturbed the waters of the Hudson, is evidence, only, of the fact that great accomplishments are always growths. "First the seed, etc." Fulton's invention was the starting point in the marvellous development of the steam engine as applied to navigation. He was the leader; all others were followers. This portrait is the work of the celebrated painter, Benjamin West, and is no doubt a correct representation of this man, whose name will ever remain as one of the world's benefactors.



ALFRED BICKNELL.

Mason.

62

Was elected Secretary in 1885; succeeding Joseph L. Bates; and has been re-elected yearly since. The Association has had nineteen secretaries; six serving one year each, two serving 2, 3, 4 and 5 years, one 6, one 11, and one 12 years; while Mr. Bates "beats the record" with 31 years service. The principal labor devolving upon a secretary, outside of the records of the Association and Government, are for the Committee of Relief; the collection of the requisite data, and writing the notices of deceased members; and sundry reports. The continuation of "Buckingham's Annals," from 1860 down to the end of the century, also involved considerable time and labor.

SUNDRY SOUVENIRS.

In a glass case we show a variety of objects. In 1836 we were presented certain philosophical apparatus, which had been imported from England some years before. There remains, practically intact, an electrical machine, mechanical powers, one of pulleys and one of levers, endless screw, discs illustrating the centre of gravity, air pump, steam engine, and many parts of these and other apparatus. In the same case we show a "Leyden Jar," one of a battery of 100 cells, which once belonged to Dr. Vaughn of England, and used by him and Dr. Priestly and Dr. Benjamin Franklin. This battery was afterwards divided, and a part brought to Boston, where it was also used by Dr. Franklin in his experiments. Here, then, we have one of the identical vessels which Benjamin Franklin used in those early electrical experiments. From this cell, and the glass wheel so long used, down to a modern dynamo, covering the Nineteenth Century. What equally great gain is *this* century to show?

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66

65 The two large porcelain pitchers in the glass case were made in England nearly one hundred years ago. They are inscribed: "Success to the Boston Mechanic Association." They came into the possession of our Association through Mr. James Eunson, an Englishman by birth, and an original member of this Association.

64 The two engravings were designed—drawn—and an edition printed by Paul Revere. That edition becoming exhausted, another was printed through the efforts of Dr. John C. Warren, in 1855, and these copies were given to our Association by him.

One represents the Landing of the British Troops, in 1768; and the other the Massacre in State street, in 1770.

Copies of these engravings are very scarce.

The Gavel shown was made from one of the timbers of the old United States Frigate, CONSTITUTION, taken out when she was repaired more than two generations ago. It was fabricated through the efforts of our ex-President Lincoln, and by him presented to the Association.

Among articles possessed by the Association, but not shown here, are the Silver Snuff Box made by Paul Revere, for years in the possession of ex-President Benjamin Russell, and now handed down from each retiring president to his successor, as a badge of his office. As a memento of the handiwork of the excellent mechanic, true patriot, and loyal and far-seeing president, it possesses great value.

We have, also, the first Gold Watch made in this country—about fifty years ago—by American workmen, with American machinery, and on American lines. It marks the dawn of freedom in this industry by the people of this country from the long continued thraldom of European manufacturers, giving them a better article at less cost, in place of an inferior one costing more money.

This well illustrates the evolution in various lines of manufacture which has been going on for many years past. The manufacture of the many articles of daily use by our people are being transferred to our shores, until our exports have assumed large proportions. We have the skill, the tools and the materials, and it will be a grave fault if we fail to improve our opportunities.

In addition to those before enumerated, there are several other frames containing illustrations of some interest, as follows:

Our Thirteenth Exhibition, in 1878, was held in a temporary building in Park Square. It extended to, and crossed Church street. A city school house in the rear was also occupied. The Superintendent of that Exhibition was John Thompson, a member of the Association, and a former member of the Government. Before the destruction of the buildings, Mr. Thompson procured a fine color cut of the buildings, which he afterwards gave to the Association, and which is now shown. 57

In the notice of Mr. Paul, our 25th president, mention is made of a committee who visited Philadelphia with him. A photograph, showing the likenesses of everyone of the number—23 men—is very fine, each face being clear cut and accurate. Five of this committee are still living. 54

In Sundry Small Frames:

A large profile of President Lincoln, and a smaller half-tone cut.

A small reproduction of a portrait of William Wood, the original promoter of the Mechanic Apprentices Library Association.

A fine small engraving of the Franklin Statue.

A blank Certificate of Membership, dated 1821, and signed by Benjamin Russell, President.

A blank Certificate of Membership in our Association, dated in 1800.

A blank Certificate of Membershlp in the "Boston Society of Housewrights," dated in 1825. 67

A copy of the "Order of Exercises" at the opening of the First Exhibition, in September, 1837, including hymns by John Pierpont, and others. A copy of the address delivered by Edward Everett, on that occasion, can be had on application.

Hanging on one of the columns may be seen three articles which may excite some curiosity. They were brought from a foreign land, many years ago. They consist of two War Clubs, of different design, and a Paddle. The wood of which they are made is very hard and heavy. They represent, no doubt, the expenditure of much time by certain savage mechanics, in their far-away native abodes. In the long and lengthening line of civilization they occupy a primitive position. 71

OUR PRESENT BUILDING.

LITTLE need be said here about this structure. During the twenty years since it was erected, it has been steadily and solidly winning its way into popular favor ; and its doors are always open to our citizens for all sorts of legitimate purposes, from a small social party to the largest political or other gathering. Like many another creation of man's genius, it fills a want before unapprehended : always ready to meet any demand, great or small, as soon as made. Its future will be just what the wisdom of our Government from year to year shall cause it to be, and its career during the century just beginning will be an index of the practical wisdom of the mechanics of Boston to-day, and in the future.

HANCOCK HOUSE.

The mansion represented in this picture had no particular connection with our history; but is shown here as having been a noted landmark in this city in the early years of the last century. As the residence of John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence; from its commanding position on Beacon Street, next west of the State House; and from its elaborate construction; it was no doubt, the best known private dwelling in Boston. And as nearly forty years have elapsed since it was taken down to make room for "modern improvements," the present generation can hardly be familiar with it sfine colonial style of architecture; and may be pleased to know how this famous mansion looked. It must have been about one hundred and twenty-five years old when this picture was made.

THE most recent contribution to our miscellaneous articles of interest is a fine model of the once famous racing yacht "Volunteer."

This craft was built several years ago, and for a time was the pride of our American yachtsmen; giving a good account of herself in her race with her British antagonist. She is a present to our Association from Rear-Admiral Philip Hichborn, who sends it from Washington in token of his regard for our Association. Admiral Hichborn was a Charlestown boy, and when young attended the Apprentices' School under the patronage of our Association. His brother William, who died in 1899, was a member of our Association, and for many years a valuable officer in the Charlestown Navy Yard. In memory of these incidents, Admiral Hichborn has contributed this fine specimen of marine architecture to our collection, which also seems appropriate when we consider that at least two hundred of our members have been engaged as sailmakers, shipwrights, ship joiners, mast and spar makers, riggers, caulkers, block makers, cordage makers, boat builders, and naval architects. The ninth name on our original list of members, after that of Paul Revere, written in 1795, is that of Edmund Hartt, shipwright, who built the famous frigate "Constitution" on Hartt's Wharf, now Constitution Wharf. This model is enclosed in a neat glass case, and adds a new, beautiful and significant feature to our collection at an opportune time. Appropriately, on our original banner, painted in 1799, is represented a ship on the stocks—a craft under sail—and a ship's steering wheel, the spokes of which are being grasped by the American eagle, symbolical of the course she is to sail, accompanied by our motto "Be Just and Fear Not."

THE FRANKLIN CHAIR.

72

In 1858 the house at the corner of Hanover and Union streets was taken down. It had been the Home of Benjamin Franklin from his infancy until he was seventeen years old. From some of the soundest of the oak timbers of which the frame was constructed, a chair was made by one of the most skilful of Boston's cabinet makers. It is elaborately carved, having profile busts of Franklin and Paul Revere upon it. On the back enclosed in scroll work are the Arms of the Association, with the motto, Be Just and Fear Not. It was presented to our Association in 1860, by Joseph M. Wightman, the president, and is known as the President's Chair.

"CORNER STONE" BOX.

73

For more than forty years this box was imbedded in the corner stone of our building which was erected on the corner of Bedford and Chauncy Streets in 1857; and taken down in 1898; but the box has not since been opened. From the record we learn that it contains a silver plate on which is engraved the names of the Mayor of Boston, and all the officers of our Association; the building committee, and artist. Also copies of all the medals and diplomas issued by our Association to exhibitors at our Exhibitions; coins of the Nation; together with copies of sundry reports, books, addresses and documents pertaining to that time; and copies of the Boston newspapers. It might have been thought to be destined to remain there through the coming centuries; but if so, it only illustrates the fact often noticed that our foresight it not as good as our hindsight. As a people, shall we ever build for the *distant* future.

TO OUR MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC.

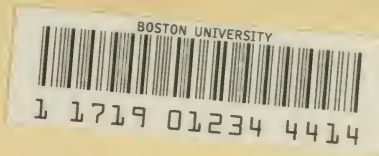
The idea of collecting into one apartment all the portraits of our past presidents has long been considered; but not until of late has the way seemed clear to do it. But the Committee on Building for 1901, taking hold of the question, has arranged Russell Hall for the purpose; in which have been hung the several portraits and other pictures; and have added sundry articles of historic value. It is hoped that as the years pass, other portraits of presidents will be added to the collection. In this way it is the hope and intent to establish a permanent collection of Association treasures; which will add essentially to the worth of this Association to the community; forming, as it were, a continuous and connecting link between the past and the present.

The Committee is as follows:

HORACE H. WATSON, Chairman,
WILLIAM N. YOUNG,
EDMUND H. HEWINS,
ANDREW J. SAVAGE,
LYMAN D. WILLCUTT.
} *Building Committee.*

ALFRED BICKNELL. *Secretary.*

Date Loaned



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